

WHY CHANGE?

The Building our Vision initiative is intended to give life to our strategic plan:

- to improve church **safety**;
- to become more **welcoming**;
- to enable more diverse forms of **worship**;
- to enhance our **learning** environment; and
- to **serve** our community and others more fully.

We are reminded that our Church has had a 275 year presence in a place of prominence in our town center. As glorious as our past has been, the future will be better still. We are confident that the project we are putting forth will position the Church to build on its foundation and expand its role in our community and the wider world in the decades to come.

There are many **issues** with our current facility:

- East emergency exit extremely difficult to navigate
- Emergency door exits directly onto busy driveway
- One small doorway into Hardy Hall leads to bottlenecks and difficulty entering
- Fire safety issues identified by Fire Chief
- Portable classroom dividers create many distractions within classrooms
- Classroom partitions are not conducive to a quiet learning environment
- No space for youth to congregate
- No way for admin to see who is entering building, unsafe
- Inadequate handicap drop-off area
- Confusing entrances and poorly designed traffic flow
- Bare, unwelcoming walls upon entering into handicap entrance
- Lack of parking
- Insufficient storage leads to inefficient spaces for gathering, learning, and serving
- Inadequate kitchen storage
- Kitchen supplies take up prep space and supplies dangerously overflow
- Inefficient kitchen layout
- Cluttered, inefficient deacon's kitchen
- Cramped, unwelcoming narthex entry area
- Insufficient space in chancel for choir and musicians
- Organist's back is to choir director
- Lack of meeting space limits us in meeting needs of groups we serve and attracting new groups
- No way to enjoy outdoor space

The improvements we are advocating bring our facility into the 21st century with fire and public safety, while refurbishing the church and providing new spaces. It will benefit all members of our community in ways that are expected increase the numbers of those we serve.

RENOVATION BENEFITS

Welcome

- Welcoming new lobby creates primary entranceway and gathering space
- Clearer layout of passageways and flow, with improved & unified signage
- Coherent design/appearance
- Accessibility improvements throughout
- Easier passage between Meeting House and Hardy Hall for fellowship
- Driveway improvements including space for 4 cars to drive up/drop off
- Possibility of additional parking across Monument Square

Worship

- All 4 west-facing windows in Meeting House to be open to adjacent lobby
- New rear entry to sanctuary reducing Narthex bottleneck and promoting easier entry during inclement weather and for bridal parties
- Enlarged Chancel supporting larger choir and alternative worship/music programs
- Accessibility improvements in Mtg House & Chancel
- Upgraded AV capabilities supporting worship program alternatives in Meeting House and use of both Emerson Chapel & Hardy Hall for overflow
- HVAC improvements

Learn

- Improved classroom spaces separated by walls, not dividers
- Main floor nursery located near egress
- CE office adjacent to classrooms
- Youth classroom for post-confirmation, confirmations & pre-confirmation
- AV capabilities in all classrooms & meeting/flexible spaces
- Library Area in New Lobby

Serve

- Outdoor patio with amphitheater seating accessible from street or Hardy Hall, for worship, Christian education, fellowship, and community use
- improvements to Hardy Hall including increased daylight from walk out patio, and storage for tables and chairs.
- No further use of Hardy Hall as classroom space.
- Hardy Hall Kitchen and Deacons' Kitchen renovated for re-imagined uses
- Improved/additional meeting/flexible spaces for use by church and community groups

Safety

- Fire-rated egresses and improved traffic flow throughout
- Multiple Hardy Hall exits at grade level
- Fire department approved life safety features for upper and lower levels
- New secure lobby entrance
- Safe Church classrooms